		A group of 2 'A' Type Canteens	A group of more than 2 'A' type Canteens
13.	General Manager	1	1
14.	Deputy General Manager	—	1
15.	Accountant	1	1
16.	Cashier	1	1
17.	Store-keeper	1	1
18.	Internal Auditor	1 (part-time)	1 (part-time)

Sale of Unpopular Brand Items at Kendriya Bhandar

*240. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not so popular and reputed brand of consumer items are on sale through the branch stores of the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to review the items on its inventory and to immediately weed out the unpopular brands selling at the cost of the popular brands to uphold the interest of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar, as far as possible, tries to make available commodities on its shelves as per customers' choice and preference. As the preferences of the customers, in certain cases, keep on changing, some of the brands become unpopular. As a result of periodical review, brands which do not sell are struck off from the inventory of items to be purchased.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Indo-Russia Agreement in Agriculture

1706. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have signed a work plan for cooperation in agriculture and allied areas;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) An agreement was signed on 25th March, 1997 between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russion Federation on cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection. The agreement aims at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds on the territory of both countries, reduction of crop losses caused by them as well as for further development of trade and exchange of planting material, agricultural, forest and plant produce between the two countries.

The agreement has come into force on the date of its signing and no separate work plan is envisaged to be signed under this agreement.

The Indian Council of Agriucltural Research (ICAR), India has also signed a